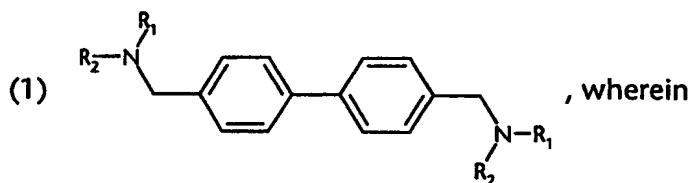


What is claimed is:

## 1. An alkylbenzylamine of formula



$R_1$  is hydrogen;  $C_1$ - $C_{18}$ alkyl; trifluoromethyl;  $C_3$ - $C_8$ cycloalkyl; phenyl- $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkyl; phenyl- $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkoxy; mono- or di- $N$ - $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkylamino- $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkyl; amino- mono- or di- $N$ - $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkylamino- $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkyl;  $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkoxy- $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkyl;

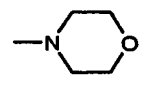
$R_2$  is  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$ alkyl; hydroxy- $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ alkyl; phenyl; phenyl- $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkyl; phenyl- $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkoxy; mono- or di- $N$ - $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkylamino- $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkyl; amino mono- or -di- $N$ - $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkylamino- $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkyl; or heteroaryl- $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkyl; or

$R_1$  and  $R_2$  together with the nitrogen atom bonding them form a 5- to 7-membered monocyclic heterocyclic ring;

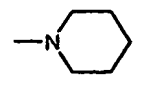
with the proviso that compounds of formula (1) are excluded wherein

- a.  $R_1$  is hydrogen; and  
 $R_2$  is butyl;
- b.  $R_1$  is hydrogen; and  
 $R_2$  is cyclohexyl;
- c.  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are butyl;
- d.  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are propyl;

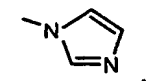
- e.  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  together form a monocyclic ring of the formula



- f.  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  together form a monocyclic ring of the formula

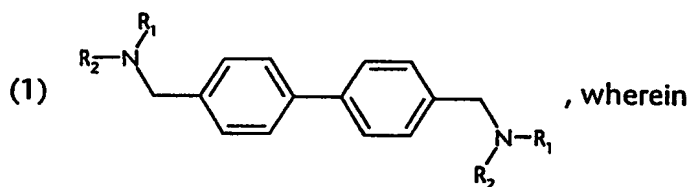


- g.  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  together form a monocyclic ring of the formula



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## 2. An alkylbenzylamine of formula



$R_1$  is hydrogen;  $C_1$ - $C_{18}$ alkyl; trifluoromethyl;  $C_3$ - $C_8$ cycloalkyl; phenyl- $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkyl; phenyl- $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkoxy; mono- or di-N- $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkylamino- $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkyl; amino-di-N- $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkylamino- $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkyl;  $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkoxy- $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkyl;

$R_2$  is  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$ alkyl; hydroxy- $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ alkyl; phenyl; phenyl- $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkyl; phenyl- $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkoxy; mono- or di-N- $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkylamino- $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkyl; amino-di-N- $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkylamino- $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkyl; or heteroaryl- $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkyl; or

$R_1$  and  $R_2$  together with the nitrogen atom bonding them form a 6- or 7-membered monocyclic heterocyclic aromatic ring.

## 3. A compound according to claim 1, wherein

$R_1$  is hydrogen;  $C_1$ - $C_8$ alkyl; benzyl; or together with  $R_2$  forms a 5- to 7-membered monocyclic heterocyclic ring.

## 4. A compound according to claim 1 or 3, wherein

$R_1$  is hydrogen.

## 5. A compound according to any one of claims 1, 3 and 4, wherein

$R_2$  is  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ alkyl; phenyl- $C_1$ - $C_2$ alkyl; hydroxy- $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkyl; heteroaryl- $C_1$ - $C_2$ alkyl; or together with  $R_1$  forms a 5- to 7-membered monocyclic heterocyclic ring.

## 6. A compound according to any one of claims 1 and 3 to 5, wherein

$R_2$  is a branched  $C_3$ - $C_8$ alkyl radical.

## 7. A compound according to claim 6, wherein

$R_2$  is an isopropyl; isobutyl, tert-butyl; isohexyl; or isooctyl radical.

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8. A compound according to claim 5, wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen; and

R<sub>2</sub> is octyl.

9. A compound according to any one of claims 1, 3 and 5 to 7, wherein

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> have the same meanings.

10. A compound according to claim 9, wherein

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are linear C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkyl; or benzyl.

11. A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen; or methyl; and

R<sub>2</sub> is C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkyl; or phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>alkyl.

12. A compound according to claim 11, wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen.

13. Use of a compound of formula (1) wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>alkyl; trifluoromethyl; C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>cycloalkyl; phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>alkyl; phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>alkoxy; mono- or di-N-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>alkylamino-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>alkyl; amino-di-N-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>alkylamino-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>alkyl; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>alkoxy-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>alkyl;

R<sub>2</sub> is C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>alkyl; hydroxy-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>alkyl; phenyl; phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>alkyl; phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>alkoxy; mono- or di-N-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>alkylamino-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>alkyl; amino-di-N-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>alkylamino-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>alkyl; or heteroaryl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>alkyl; or

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> together with the nitrogen atom bonding them form a 5- to 7-membered monocyclic heterocyclic ring;

in the antimicrobial treatment of surfaces.

14. Use according to claim 13, wherein the compound is used in the deodorisation and disinfection of the skin, mucosa and hair.

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15. Use according to claim 13, wherein the compound is used in the treatment of textile fibre materials.

16. Use of a compound of formula (1) in the preservation and antimicrobial treatment of technical products.

17. Use according to claim 16, wherein the compound is used for plastics, paper, nonwovens, wood or leather.

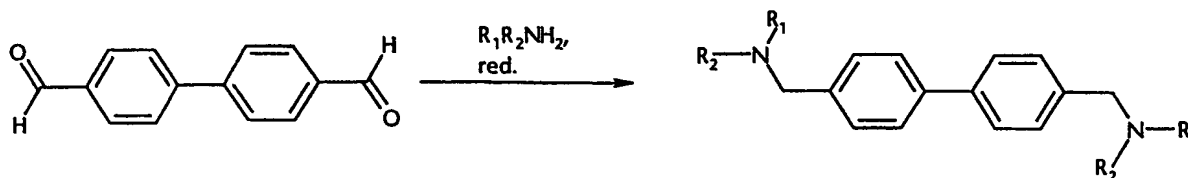
18. Use of a compound of formula (1) as an antimicrobial active ingredient in washing and cleaning formulations.

19. Use of a compound of formula (1) as a biocide in technical processes.

20. A personal care preparation, comprising from 0.01 to 15 % by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, of a compound of formula (1), and cosmetically tolerable adjuvants.

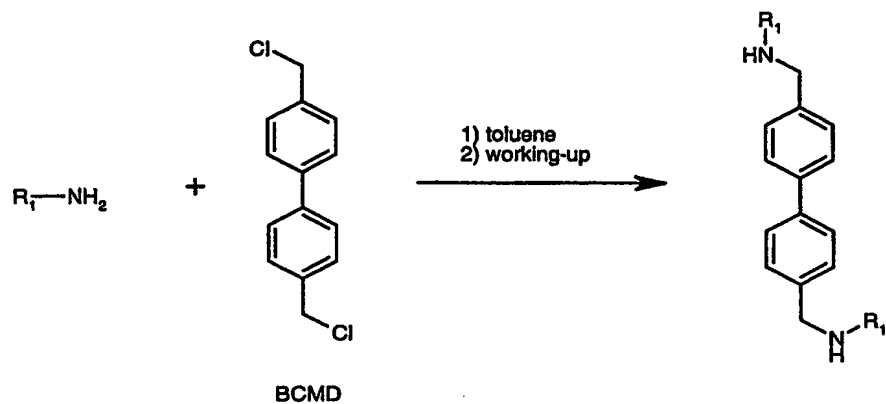
21. An oral composition, comprising from 0.01 to 15 % by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, of a compound of formula (1), and orally tolerable adjuvants.

22. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (1), wherein it is prepared in accordance with the following scheme:



wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are as defined for formula (1).

23. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (1), wherein it is prepared in accordance with the following scheme:



wherein  $R_1$  is as defined for formula (1).